(iv) 28,533 out of a total of 33,071 exchanges are already provided with reliable media as on 31.01.2002. The remaining exchanges are being covered progressively during the current year.

(v) Internet access is available to all District Headquarters.

Rural telephony obligations

1176. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought from the Planning Commission for meeting the rural telephony obligations for the year 2002-2003;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) how resources would be met for the rural telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had prepared two alternate plan proposals for 2002-03. One plan was for Rs. 17853 crores containing a sum of Rs. 4,206 crores as compensation from Government towards rural telephony and an alternate plan was for Rs. 14076 crores containing Rs. 1 crore as compensation from Government towards rural telephony. Planning Commission has approved the alternate plan with reduced outlay.

(b) Rs. 1.00 crore.

(c) Rural telephones to the extent possible shall be provided in the alternative Plan, partly through internal generation and partly through compensation available from Government.

Business Houses relating to IT industry

†1177. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.